



# Pedro Nava

## Assembly Member

REPRESENTING ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 35



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JUNE 2009

### Assemblymember Nava Honors Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District



Assemblymember Nava honors Sacramento Metro Fire Chief Donald Mette and staff on the Assembly Floor.

Through much of May, the Jesusita Fire raged through the San Roque Canyon in Santa Barbara. When the fire was finally controlled on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, it had burned 8,733 acres and destroyed or damaged over 175 structures and buildings.

Assemblymember Nava and his wife, Susan Jordan, were evacuated from their home like nearly 30,000 other City of Santa Barbara residents.

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department (SMFD) and 56 other fire crews from across California were deployed to the Jesusita Fire. These brave men and women left their communities and put themselves in harms way to defend the lives and homes of Santa Barbara residents. 30 firefighters from various units throughout the state were injured during this disaster.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, while on the Assembly Floor, Nava was able to personally thank the Sacramento firefighters who helped to defend Santa Barbara from the Jesusita Fire. The Assemblymember publicly acknowledged Chief Donald Mette, his staff and the many firefighters in the gallery.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the state's firefighters for preserving our homes and our way of life. I only regret I can't personally thank all the firefighters across California who came to our aid in Santa Barbara.

### Nava Selects Local Company Visual Concepts, LLC. as Small Business of the Year

**Sacramento** – Assemblymember Nava recently honored Visual Concepts, LLC., of Oxnard as the Small Business of the year for the 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. The company was recognized for success and contributions to the business community at a ceremony in Sacramento. Receiving the award were co-founder and Chief Executive Priscilla Rouse Becker, and co-founder and President Cece Alemania.

"Priscilla Rouse Becker and Cece Alemania have set an exemplary standard for local businesses through their innovation, drive, commitment to their employees and customers, and involvement in the community," said Nava. "Small businesses will be the driving force in our economic recovery, and I am proud to recognize such role models in business."

Visual Concepts founded in 1994, is a rapidly growing information technology services company based in Oxnard, with 25 employees. It was recently awarded a \$29 million contract to provide technical support for the U.S. Navy's Naval Facilities Engineering Command (a branch of the Navy responsible for handling real estate assets) in Port Hueneme.

Five years ago, the company built a Web portal, [www.rebuilding-iraq.net](http://www.rebuilding-iraq.net), to track the \$18.4 billion that the U.S. provided for construction projects in Iraq. The company is still maintaining that portal, and continues to provide technical support for a military team in the Green Zone in Baghdad. In addition to the Navy and the U.S. Department of Defense, the company serves a variety of commercial and government customers including, FIS, Inc., Global, Informax Data Systems, the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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Visual Concepts also gives back to young people in the community by participating yearly in the "Secret Santa" program at Hancock Elementary School in Ventura. Additionally, the company is in the process of designing an interactive web site for Living Advantage, Inc., a foster care organization that serves the needs of at risk youth in Los Angeles County. The website will serve as a virtual online community for foster youth to voice their opinions, achievements and receive rewards.



Assemblymember Nava awards Priscilla Rouse Becker (left) and Cece Alemania (right) with the honor of 35<sup>th</sup> District Small Business of the Year.

### **35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Constituents Offer Perspective and Solutions for Solving Budget Crisis**

Assemblymember Nava's office has been actively meeting with those constituents in our community who would be most heavily affected by the Governor's proposed drastic cuts to our social safety net. In meetings with representatives from the Area Board 9 on Developmental Disabilities and the Independent Living Resource Center, constituents presented alternative budget solutions, ideas for revenue enhancements, and testimonies about how vital the state services they receive are to their independence.

The Area Board 9 of Developmental Disabilities' mission is to "advocate for the legal, civil, and service rights of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. We are representative of the community, embracing and promoting the principles and practices of inclusion." These individuals use services ranging from In-Home Supportive Services, health care from MediCal, and services from our Regional Center – all services proposed to be cut by the Governor. They understand that cuts will and must be made, but have provided an insider's view on how some cost savings could be realized. These include a move towards self-directed services for regional center clients, increase federal financial participation, and cutting in administration, not in direct aid to consumers.

When Ventura Unified School District needed help with their budget, Nava was glad to author AB 1022 to allow VUSD to deposit \$10 million of the proceeds from the sale of surplus real property, into VUSD's general fund. Those dollars could then be used for any one-time general fund purpose. This would give VUSD budget flexibility in these difficult economic times. This legislation will likely be successful and may be used as the model to bring this same flexibility to all California school districts. We need to pursue more of these kinds of budget solutions to continue providing vital and essential services.

Assemblymember Nava's office has also met with individuals from local schools, adult day health centers, and even constituents unaffiliated with any organization who simply want to have a dialogue on the state budget process. Assemblymember Nava's staff also recently met with representatives at his Oxnard District Office and attended a town hall meeting sponsored by Among Friends, an Oxnard Adult Day Health Care Center. More than 350 staff and clients attended the meeting to voice their concerns regarding Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed budget cuts and their impacts on the center. Assemblymember Nava's Senior Field Representative, John Mann, was joined at the Town Hall meeting by City of Oxnard Mayor Tom Holden.

The office has received thousands of varied comments and suggestions in the form of phone calls, emails, faxes, postcards and letters. Individuals with concerns about state parks, childrens' health insurance and the Cal Grant program are reaching out to offer solutions and protest cuts to programs they hold dear. As the budget process moves forward, and as the legislature looks for solutions to our deficit, we appreciate the constructive input of residents and community groups in the 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

## **Assemblymember Nava Applauds California Conservation Corps Crews for Assistance During the Jesusita Fire**



Assemblymember Pedro Nava, Chair of the Assembly Banking & Finance Committee, is holding a series of public hearings looking into the collapse of mortgage lending companies. Recent news accounts have reported that public accountants may have had a serious role in that collapse. The first hearing, held on May 4<sup>th</sup>, brought together consumer advocates, public interest advocates, a former regulator and enforcement officer, and accounting experts, who explored the various aspects of the collapse.

"With the fallout felt in California from the economic crisis and meltdowns The California Conservation Corps is a state agency hiring young women and men ages 18 to 25 for a year of natural resource work and emergency response. The California Conservation Corps (CCC) is perhaps best known for its emergency work - fighting fires and

floods, assisting with earthquake recovery efforts, cleaning up after oil spills, and much more.

In 2008, the CCC had the largest fire response in its history, calling out more than 800 corpsmembers for wildfires throughout the state. 2009 has already been a busy year for fire crew members.

CCC crews can be dispatched where needed throughout the state within hours. Since the Corps was established in 1976, corpsmembers have provided eight million hours of emergency work, responding to nearly every major natural disaster in California.

For corpsmembers, responding to an emergency may mean 12-hour days, often 10 to 14 days at a time, before being relieved by a fresh crew. Despite the long hours, most corpsmembers find the work among the most rewarding in the CCC, whether saving homes and businesses from rising flood waters, working at a large firefighter base camp or helping neighborhoods clean up after an earthquake.

Locally, 4 crews (58 corpsmembers, 4 staff and 1 agency representative) from the Camarillo center contributed more than 7,350 hours to the recent Jesusita Fire in Santa Barbara, according to Center Director Christie Rochte.

Many corpsmembers have used their CCC experience as a stepping-stone to future careers as firefighters with the California Department of Forestry, the U.S. Forest Service as well as local fire departments.

"I am proud to commend the California Conservation Corps for its emergency response crews that help our state during emergencies such as the Jesusita Fire and for the job training service it provides to young Californians," said Assemblymember Pedro Nava.

For more information on the Camarillo Center of the Corps, visit <http://www.ccc.ca.gov/DISTRICT/CAMARILO/camarilo.htm>

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